

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 1, 1975

(SALT TWO-804)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON
AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF OCTOBER 1, 1975.

MR. MINISTER,

I

THE US DELEGATION HAS CAREFULLY STUDIED THE SOVIET PROPOSAL
OF SEPTEMBER 11, 1975 AND THE SUBSEQUENT SOVIET STATEMENT OF SEP-
TEMBER 25, 1975, ON SUBPARAGRAPH 2(B) OF ARTICLE XVIII OF THE JOINT
DRAFT TEXT, CONCERNING CERTAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE
COMMISSION AS THEY ARE SET FORTH IN THE NEW AGREEMENT.

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THE US BELIEVES, AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY STATED, THAT THE SCC

SHOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO AGREE UPON PROCEDURES AND DATES WHICH MAKE EXPLICIT THE CRITERIA FOR REMOVAL OF A STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARM FROM THE AGGREGATE LIMITATION, AND THE CRITERIA FOR BRINGING ANOTHER SUCH ARM INTO THE AGGREGATE. WE BELIEVE THESE ARE RELATED, AND ARE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN WHEN A SIDE IS AT OR NEAR THE LEVELS OF AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS AGREEMENT.

THE SIDES ARE IN AGREEMENT ON LANGUAGE AUTHORIZING THE SCC TO AGREE UPON PROCEDURES AND DATES FOR THE DISMANTLING OR DESTRUCTION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT REMOVAL FROM THE AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS.

THE SOVIET SIDE HAS ALSO PROPOSED IN SUBPARAGRAPH 2(B) THAT THE SCC BE AUTHORIZED TO AGREE UPON PROCEDURES FOR REMOVAL OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS FROM THE AGGREGATE WHEN THEY OTHERWISE CEASE TO BE SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE AGREED LANGUAGE OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE VI.

THE SOVIET SIDE HAS INDICATED THAT IT CONSIDERS THAT THESE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE VI, TOGETHER WITH THE PROVISIONS IT PROPOSED FOR ARTICLE XVIII, OBTAIN THE NEED TO AGREE ON PROCEDURES AND DATES FOR REPLACEMENT AND CONVERSION ACTIVITIES. IN CONTRAST, THE US SIDE BELIEVES THAT THE SCC SHOULD BE ASSIGNED THE TASK OF INCORPORATING AND AMPLIFYING THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE VI AS WELL AS OTHER PROVISIONS

OF THE NEW AGREEMENT INTO WORKABLE PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THE TOTALITY OF THE PERTINENT OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED UNDER THAT AGREEMENT. THE LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY THE US FOR THIS SUBPARAGRAPH HAS BEEN FORMULATED TO IMPLEMENT THIS CONCEPT.

ARTICLE VI DEALS WITH THE ISSUES OF WHEN A SYSTEM WILL START TO BE INCLUDED AND WHEN IT WILL CEASE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE AGGREGATES.

THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR SUBPARAGRAPH 2(B) OF ARTICLE XVIII DEALS ONLY WITH THE ISSUE OF WHEN A SYSTEM WILL CEASE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE AGGREGATES.

HOWEVER, IN THE REPLACEMENT OF ONE SYSTEM BY ANOTHER THE SIDES NEED TO AGREE ON THE STAGE OF DISMANTLING OR DESTRUCTION OF AN OLD SYSTEM THAT MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE TIME THE REPLACEMENT
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SYSTEM REACHES THE STAGE AT WHICH IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE AGGREGATES.

PROCEDURES ARE REQUIRED EQUALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE 1320 AGGREGATE AS WELL AS THE 2400 AGGREGATE, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE SIDES REACH OR APPROACH EITHER OR BOTH AGGREGATE LIMITS. THEY WOULD HELP TO ELIMINATE AMBIGUITIES ARISING FROM MODERNIZATION, REPLACEMENT AND CONVERSION.

IN THIS CONNECTION, I WANT TO REITERATE THAT THE US DOES NOT PROPOSE TO INTERFERE WITH THE FREEDOM OF EITHER SIDE TO DETERMINE THE COMPOSITION OF ITS AGGREGATES OR TO INTERFERE WITH EITHER SIDE'S FREE-

DOM TO MODERNIZE AND REPLACE SYSTEMS AS PERMITTED UNDER THE AGREEMENT. THE US PROPOSALS SIMPLY PROVIDE FOR THE SCC TO AGREE UPON THE CRITERIA OBSERVABLE BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS FOR INCLUSION IN OR REMOVAL FROM AN AGGREGATE OF A STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARM DURING THE REPLACEMENT OR CONVERSION PROCESSES CARRIED OUT BY EITHER SIDE.

THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WOULD GIVE THE SCC A COMPREHENSIVE CHARTER WITH RESPECT TO DISMANTLING OR DESTRUCTION OF OFFENSIVE ARMS, AND THEIR REMOVAL FROM THE AGGREGATE, AS WELL AS REMOVAL OF SUCH ARMS WHEN THEY OTHERWISE CEASE TO BE SUBJECT TO THE AGGREGATE. THE US SEEKS AN EQUALLY COMPREHENSIVE CHARTER FOR THE SCC WITH RESPECT TO THE TOTALITY OF ALL THE PERTINENT OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT. JOHNSON

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